

**City of Columbia Historic Preservation Commission
Application for Most Notable Property**

**Community Development Department, Planning Division
City of Columbia, 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201
Planning@CoMo.Gov**

Address Being Nominated:

THE FARM of **Dr. Andrew Walker McAlester**, now the site of the Columbia Country Club and Country Club Estates Neighborhood Association (CCENA); specifically honoring the memory of Dr. Andrew McAlester. This property comprises approximately 160 acres of land east of Columbia where the farm and country home and medical practice of Dr. Andrew Walker McAlester was until portions of it were sold to create the Columbia Country Club. In 1954, Hurst John, purchased the house of Dr. McAlester, and later created two subdivisions on parcels of this same land, Country Gardens and Strawberry Hill which remain today.

Date Property Built (if known):

ca. 1883, Andrew W. McAlester House already named a “Notable Property” by the Historic Preservation Commission of Columbia in 2008.

First Owner/Builder/Architect (if known):

Andrew Walker McAlester, 1841-1922, “Father of the University of Missouri School of Medicine”

Current Owner’s Name:

The Columbia Country Club now occupies a portion of the McAlester Farm which was originally an approximate 160 acres of land on the east side of Columbia. This land now makes up a large portion of the Country Club Estates Neighborhood Association (CCENA), the subdivisions of Country Gardens and Strawberry Hill, both of which were laid out by the well-known architect, Hurst John, who bought the McAlester House in 1954.

(properties may be nominated by non-owners but owners must give permission for photography/ videography of property- see page 2 for release)

Submitter’s Name:

**Randall F. Kilgore
Former, President, Country Club Estates Neighborhood Association (CCENA)
804 Fairway Drive, Country Gardens Subdivision
Columbia, Missouri 65201-5349**

Submitter's Phone number:

(573) 808-5254

E-mail:

rfkilgore55@hotmail.com

NOTE: The following information provides a starting point for historic research on the property. However, a lack of information should not be a deterrent for an application. All properties chosen for Most Notable will have a history of the property compiled by a historic preservation professional. This history will be provided to property owners for their own records.

Has anyone of local, regional, or national historic note ever occupied the property? If so, whom?

- ❖ Andrew Walker McAlester, M.D., “Father of the University of Missouri School of Medicine” (because of his *“intent, interest in founding, establishing and organizing the school and getting it into action.”* **)
- ❖ Hurst John, architect
- ❖ Columbia Country Club, founded and organized in 1921.
- ❖ Other notable residential homes and homeowners dot the landscape.

** Citation from A History of Medicine in Missouri, by E.J. Goodwin, published in 1905.

Does the property have any notable or unusual architectural qualities? If so, please identify.

- ❖ The corpus of The Farm of Dr. Andrew Walker McAlester creates the land occupied by the Columbia Country Club, designated a “Historic Notable Property” in 2008, and two subdivisions created and developed by local, well-known architect Hurst John, whose daughter, Martha John, also an architect, still resides.
- ❖ The two subdivisions created by Hurst John are Strawberry Hill (Club Court, a private street) and other streets to the north and east; and Country Gardens (Fairway Drive and Country Lane). Each of the houses constructed in the area are unique in that no two are the same, many boast a raised cupola atop the roofline or roof of a garage, and several houses are of note because of their contemporary design.
- ❖ The Neighborhood is unique in that it is home to several well-known architects, lawyers, corporate executives, former State Representatives, former City of Columbia Council Members, physicians, educators, and healthcare professionals. Some of these persons are named here:
 - Hurst John, Architect (deceased)
 - Martha John, Architect
 - Nick Peckham, Architect

- Kimi Chinn-Rother, Architect
- Ronald Phillips, Architect
- Mary W. Still, former Missouri State Representative
- Russell Still, Attorney at Law, former Columbia School Board Member
- Robert Hutton, former City Council Member (2 terms)
- Linda Hutton, Retired School Educator
- Gary Kespohl, former City Council Member
- Theresa Glover, Retired School Educator
- Jack Miller, President and CEO of TRUE Media
- Scott Bess, Professional Golfer (deceased) – PGA
- Stephanie Hose, M.D., Physician-Dermatologist
- David Babel, local Realtor
- Valerie Brown, former State of California, State Assembly, 7th District, 1992–1998; Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, 2002–2012
- Dan Viets, Attorney at Law
- Robert Allen, M.D., (deceased)
- Craig McCoy, M.D.
- Phillip McAdams, owner, McAdams' Ltd. Antiques (deceased)
- Berry McAlester, Builder of Sorority and Fraternity Houses across the U.S.

Have any recent renovations been performed that have helped restore the property? If so, describe them briefly.

Is the property recognized by any other historic preservation organizations? If so, please identify.

Please describe any other unusual or interesting attributes or stories about the property.

The stone gates at the entrance of the property mark the original entrance to the McAlester Farm and now the Columbia Country Club at Old Highway 63 and North Country Club Drive. The original lane follows the same route to the McAlester House since the days when Dr. McAlester owned the farm and raised thoroughbred horses on the property. It is said that somewhere on the farm are buried former slaves and farm-hand workers, but those graves have never been found. Running along the eastern portion of land owned now by the Columbia Country Club is the Hinkson Creek that runs through the boundary of the property for some distance and where a section of original rock wall dam on the Creek. The Columbia Country Club was founded July 4, 1921 and has been an ongoing social center and meeting place for early Columbia businesspersons.

Please attach current and/or early pictures of the property.

Owner's release for city public communications to photograph/video record around exterior property **and** for property information to be included online in an interactive historic map *(required for nomination)*

(signature)

(signature)

Owner's release for city public communications to photograph and video record up to three rooms/elements in the interior of the building *(optional- will require owner's presence)*

Rooms/elements of interest in the building's interior:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

(signature)

(signature)

[The A.W. McAlester Connection](#)

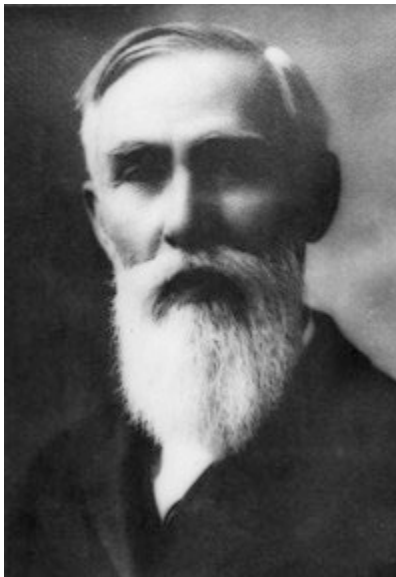
7 April 2009 in [Neighborhood History](#) | by [MarthaK](#) | [1 comment](#)

This is the first in an occasional series about the history of our neighborhood. I was encouraged to write and post these by Jim (and several other people), so here is a start.

In about 1880, Dr. A.W. McAlester bought approximately 160 acres of land on the east side of Columbia. This land makes up a large part of what is now the Country Club Estates neighborhood.

Andrew Walker McAlester was born in Rocheport on January 1, 1841. He was the youngest of five children of Brightberry McAlester, who was a lumber merchant and builder, and his wife, Mary Ann. They moved their family to Columbia in about 1846, where Brightberry was principal in a large contracting firm that built the county courthouse, a county jail, and several buildings on the new University of Missouri campus, including the (then) President's home. The free-standing columns at the courthouse are all that remains of the courthouse he helped build, and the President's home is now the Chancellor's Residence on the Red Campus.

Young Andrew – or A.W., as he became known – graduated from the university in literary studies in 1864 and went on to receive a medical degree from St. Louis Medical College in 1866. He also attended medical schools in Chicago, New York, London and Paris, and visited medical schools in Germany.



A.W. McAlester

When the brand new “medical department” at the University of Missouri was begun in 1872, Dr. McAlester was appointed chair of Obstetrics and Surgery. He worked with his friend, Frank

Nifong (Maplewood House) to develop the fledgling department into a real medical school. In 1880 he was appointed Medical Dean of the expanded medical department, a position he held until he retired at the age of 68 in 1909. Under his guidance, the medical school became a premiere teaching institution in medicine. He has been called the “Father of the University of Missouri School of Medicine” because of his “intent, interest in founding, establishing and organizing the school and getting it into action.”* In a lecture about medical education, he said: “To become successful doctors of medicine implies not only good soil, but good culture also. All culture and no soil makes Jack a dull boy; all soil and no culture reaches the same undesirable end.”*



from The Columbia Missouri Herald Jan. 17, 1902

About the time he was appointed Medical Dean, he also bought his tract of land on the east side of town, where he proceeded to build his farm. This included his handsome frame house on the hill, built in about 1883, with several barns, a windmill and many fences. His lane came in through a stone-built gateway, part of which can still be seen at the intersection of Country Club Drive and Old 63. He raised thoroughbred horses on his farm and showed them in local shows. As well as being a teacher of medicine, he was a medical doctor and probably had an office in his new home. The northern boundary of his farm laid along a line which is now McAlester street (and it’s imaginary extension); the southern boundary along the fence line south of South Country Club Drive, which divides our neighborhood from the ones to the south.

* both quotes are cited in *A History of Medicine in Missouri* by E. J. Goodwin, published in 1905